

The Especial Night Mentioned in Surah Ad-Dukhan Means Which Night. Is It the Shaban or Qadar?

What is the importance of 15 Shaban, is it the night in which the fate of every one is decided for the next year? The especial night mentioned in *Surah Dukhan* means which night. Is it the Shabaan or *qadar*?

Praise be to Allaah.

Laylat al-Nesf min Shabaan (the 15th of Shabaan) is like any other night, and there is no sound report from the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) to indicate that on this night the fate or destiny of people is decided. (See Question no. 8907)

With regard to the night mentioned in the verses, “We sent it (this Qur’aan) down on a blessed night. Verily, We are ever warning [mankind that Our Torment will reach those who disbelieve in Our Oneness of Lordship and in Our Oneness of worship]. Therein (that night) is decreed every matter of ordainments.” [al-Dukhan: 3-4]

Ibn Jareer al-Tabari (may Allaah have mercy on him) said, “The commentators differed concerning that night, i.e., which night of the year it is. Some of them said that it is *Laylat al-Qadr*, and it was narrated from Qurtaadah that it is *Laylat al-Qadr*. Others said that it is the night of the 15th of Shabaan. The correct view is the view of those who say that it is *Laylat al-Qadr*, because Allaah has told us of that when He says, ‘Verily, We are ever warning’ [al-Dukhaan: 3].” (*Tafseer al-Tabari*, 11/221)

With regard to the phrase, “Therein (that night) is decreed every matter of ordainments”: Ibn Hajar said in his commentary on Saheeh al-Bukhaari, “What this means is that the decrees for the year are decided on that night, because Allaah says, ‘Therein (that night) is decreed every matter of ordainments’. And al-Nawawi said, ‘The scholars said that it is called *Laylat al-Qadr* because on this night the angels write down the decrees (*aqdaar*), because Allaah says, ‘Therein (that night) is decreed every matter of ordainments’. This was also narrated by ‘Abd al-Razzaaq and other mufasssireen with saheeh isnaads from Mujaahid, ‘Ikrimah, Qataadah and others. Al-Toorbashti said that the word used in the Qur’aan is *qadr*, whereas people think it is *qadar* (decree); the word *qadr* refers to the detailed manifestation of the decree.’”

Laylat al-Qadr brings great reward for the one who does good deeds and strives in worship on that night. Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning), “Verily, We have sent it (this Qur’aan) down in the Night of *Al-Qadr* (Decree).”

And what will make you know what the Night of *Al-Qadr* (Decree) is?

The Night of *Al-Qadr* (Decree) is better than a thousand months (i.e. worshipping Allaah in that night is better than worshipping Him a thousand months, i.e. 83 years and 4 months).

Therein descend the angels and the Rooh [Jibreel (Gabriel)] by Allaah’s Permission with all Decrees,

(All that night), there is peace (and goodness from Allaah to His believing slaves) until the appearance of dawn.” [al-Qadr: 1-5]

There are many ahaadeeth which speak of the virtue of that night, such as the hadeeth narrated by al-Bukhaari from Abu Hurayrah, in which the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, “Whoever spends *Laylat al-Qadr* in prayer out of faith and hoping for reward, all his previous sins will be forgiven, and whoever fasts Ramadaan out of faith and hoping for reward, all his previous sins will be forgiven.” (Narrated by al-Bukhaari, al-Sawm, 1768)

And Allaah knows best.